

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

SPECIAL BOARD ORDER NO. R7-2011-0043
AMENDING CEASE AND DESIST ORDER NO. R7-2009-0049
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)
PERMIT NO. CA0104248 FOR THE
IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT EL CENTRO GENERATING STATION
El Centro – Imperial County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (hereinafter Regional Water Board), finds:

1. Imperial Irrigation District (hereinafter, Discharger), P.O. Box 937, Imperial, California 92251, owns the El Centro Generating Station (ECGS) which is a gas and oil-fired power plant located at 485 E. Villa Avenue, El Centro, CA 92243. ECGS has a total output of 240 Megawatts (MW) and consists of two (2) steam units and one (1) combined cycle unit. The steam units are rated at 77 MW and 46 MW, and the combined cycle unit is rated at 117 MW (85 MW gas turbine and 32 MW steam turbine). All units are cooled using water circulated through unit specific cooling towers.
2. ECGS has a potential to discharge a maximum of 1.04 million gallons per day (MGD) of industrial cooling water to Central Drain No. 5, which flows into the Alamo River, which flows to the Salton Sea. The Central Drain No. 5, the Alamo River and the Salton Sea are waters of the United States.
3. On July 1, 2004, the Regional Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. R7-2004-0086 (NPDES Permit No. CA0104248). WDRs Order No. R7-2004-0086 specifies effluent limitations, prohibitions, specifications, and provisions necessary to protect the beneficial uses of the surface and ground waters within the Colorado River Basin Region. WDRs Order No. R7-2004-0086 became effective on July 1, 2004 and will expire on July 1, 2009. The effluent limitations below were calculated and based on monitoring results and by using the California Toxics Rule.
4. Among other requirements, Board Order No. R7-2004-0086, Section A.8 prescribes Interim and Final Effluent Limitations for free cyanide, copper, and selenium. The Interim Effluent Limitation became effective July 1, 2004 and the Final Effluent Limitation became effective on July 1, 2009.
5. On May 21, 2009, the Regional Water Board adopted Cease and Desist Order (CDO) No. R7-2009-0049 to address violations of Board Order No. R7-2004-0086. Pursuant to California Water Code (CWC) Section 13385(j)(3), the CDO exempts the Discharger from Mandatory Minimum Penalties (MMPs) for violations of the Final Effluent Limitation for free cyanide, copper, and selenium if the Discharger is in compliance with the CDO. Accordingly, the exemption from MMPs for violations of the Final Effluent Limitation for free cyanide, copper, and selenium became effective on the date the CDO was adopted. As long as the Discharger is in compliance with the CDO, the exemption shall remain in effect until December 31, 2011, the date when the ECGS improvements must be completed and full compliance with Board Order No. R7-2004-0086 must be achieved, as specified on page 5 of the CDO in Ordered Paragraph 1.
6. CDO No. R7-2009-0049 may be modified, rescinded and reissued, for cause. The filing of a request by the Discharger for a Board Order modification, rescission and reissuance, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any Board Order condition. Causes for modification include, but are not limited to, the promulgation of new regulations, modification of land application plans, or modification in sludge use or disposal

practices, or adoption of new regulations by the State Water Board or the Regional Water Board, including revisions to the Basin Plan.

7. On June 1, 2011, in a letter to Regional Board staff, the Discharger requested that the time schedule set forth in Ordered Paragraph 1 of the CDO be amended in order to implement an alternative method of disposal to phase out the discharge as required by the CDO. The alternative method selected for addressing the more stringent CTR requirements to eliminate the process wastewater discharge to Central Drain No. 5 is to dispose of it through two new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Class I deep injection wells to be located at the ECGS. Each injection well will be designed to accept a maximum injection rate of approximately 850 gallons per minute. A piping collection system including injection pumps and new motor control center will be installed to handle the process wastewater. Construction of the deep injection wells and the collection system will be contracted as turnkey projects and inspected and approved by IID personnel. IID has selected Layne Christensen Company to drill the injection wells, and based on their drilling schedule, IID would be in a position to execute the above ground collection and injection piping system contract in December 2011. This low risk approach to execution of the project adds several months to IID's compliance schedule, but will minimize significant financial risk to IID in the case that the first well is not viable.
8. Water Code section 13385(j)(3)(C)(i) provides that a time schedule specified in a CDO may not exceed five (5) years in length for bringing a waste discharge into compliance with an effluent limitation as soon as possible. Board Order No. R7-2009-0049 was adopted on May 21, 2009, thus, the latest revised milestone specified below of May 30, 2013, complies with this statutory requirement.
9. The Regional Water Board published Public Notice No. 7-11-30 for this Special Board Order on June 10, 2011.
10. Issuance of this Special Board Order amending CDO No. R7-2009-0049 to enforce CWC, Division 7, Chapter 5.5 is exempt from the provisions of CEQA (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.), in accordance with Section 15321 ("Enforcement Actions by Regulatory Agencies") Title 14, California Code of Regulations.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that Cease and Desist Order No. R7-2009-0049 is amended in the manner specified below upon the effective date of this Special Board Order, and, in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code (CWC) and regulations adopted thereunder, and the provisions of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), and regulations and guidelines adopted thereunder, the Discharger shall comply with the requirements in this Special Board Order as well as with those portions of CDO No. R7-2009-0049 that were not amended by this Special Board Order:

Page 5, Ordered Paragraph No. 1. shall be revised as follows :

The Discharger has prepared and submitted a Pollution Prevention Plan pursuant to Section 13263.3 of the CWC on or before December 31, 2009. Discharger has selected the alternative method of deep injection well disposal to eliminate process waste water discharge. The Discharger shall complete the proposed alternative method of treatment and disposal to achieve consistent compliance with Board Order No. R7-2004-0086 and shall submit the required submittals and documentation to the Regional Board by the designated completion dates specified below:

WWTP UPGRADES			
MILESTONE	MILESTONE DESCRIPTION	MILESTONE SUBMITTAL	COMPLETION DATE
1	Drill and Confirm Well #1 is Geologically Acceptable for Wastewater Disposal	Submit Copy of Well Acceptability Report	October 31, 2011
2	Issue Notice to Proceed to Procure and Install Wastewater Collection and Injection Surface Equipment for Two Injection Wells	Submit a Copy of Notice to Proceed	December 30, 2011
3	Complete Construction and implementation of the Wastewater Collection and Injection Surface Equipment for Two Injection Wells	Submit Summary and Verification of Construction Completion	May 30, 2013

I, Robert E. Perdue, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, on June 23, 2011.

ROBERT E. PERDUE, Executive Officer